

Redefining Youth Engagement

Overview

- A range of government grants have been terminated
- More than £1m removed from Harrow's Young People's Services budget to meet savings targets
- This scrutiny review looks at how the council can most effectively communicate and engage with young people in decision making and volunteering activity

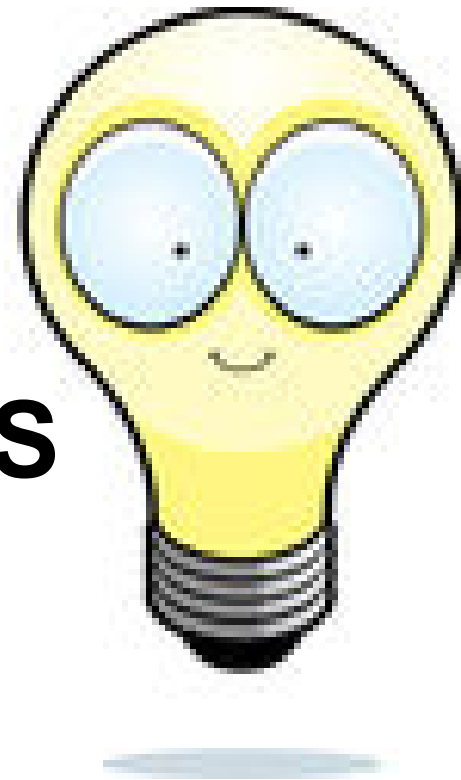


Process

- Meeting and conversing with a number of national experts, local authorities
- Holding a drop-in session for young people at the Wealdstone Youth Centre
- Focus group meetings with Harrow Youth Parliament, British Youth Council, National Children's Bureau, the National Youth Agency and young people with disabilities and their carers.
- Written survey for young people and residents, distributed through a school council to be used as a basis of conversations between youth workers and young people.
- Use of the scrutiny's Facebook and Twitter pages.



RECOMMENDATIONS



Youth Summit



- For the council to lead a major borough ‘youth summit’ with partners, politicians, and local business
- Part of a “Harrow Youth Week” as part of the council’s ongoing ‘Let’s Talk’ programme
- Young people should help in the design and delivery of this.

Commissioning Decisions

“ The council should involve young people from design to implementation wherever appropriate

“ Part of a wider involvement scheme which rewards youth engagement

“ Used by Hammersmith and Fulham councils

“ More likely to meet young people's needs with successful outcomes



Harrowyouth Website

- To be overhauled
- Made similar to the 'student room' which offers useful opportunities for conversations about local issues,
- To provide clear links to volunteering, jobs, skills development opportunities and community events
- work with young people and facilitate development of the website

Summer Uni

- free courses to young people providing them with skills and volunteering opportunities
- Backed by a commercial and/or charitable partner
- Camden's summer university and Tower Hamlets' Futureversity
- To help their future employability as well as providing positive activities during summer holidays, bringing together different groups of young people



You have a role to play in giving young people support and direction and in doing so the council can learn from us and gain valuable insights to help you plan ahead with our services.

